

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 2-4 and 6-11 are now pending in this application.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to the claims as well as indicating that claims 2-4 and 6-11 contain allowable subject matter.

Rejection of claims 3-4, 8, and 10-11 based on 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 3-4, 8, and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the limitations “the operating force detecting means” in claim 3, line 2; “the position detecting means” in claim 4, line 2; and “the position detecting means” in claim 8, line 2 lack proper antecedent basis. Claims 3-4 and 8 have been amended to address these informalities. For at least this reason, favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1 and 5 over the prior art

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 2,323,878 (“Kesling”) and as being anticipated by JP 3-265759 (“Tokumaru”). Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled which renders the rejection of these claims moot. For at least this reason, favorable reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Allowability of claims 2-4 and 6-11

Claim 2 is indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 is so rewritten.

Claims 3-4 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-4 are so rewritten.

Claims 6-10 depend from and contain all the features of claim 2, 3, or 4, and are allowable therewith for at least the same reasons indicated above, without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

For at least these reasons, allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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